



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

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Contact: Caren Daniels-Meade
Carol Dahmen
916-653-6575

Secretary of State Kevin Shelley Explains Provisional Ballots and When Identification Is Required to Cast Ballot

SACRAMENTO -- Voters who find they are not on voter rosters or who find themselves at the wrong polling place in their county tomorrow can still cast a ballot under the provisional voting process established in both state and federal law, Secretary of State Kevin Shelley reminded voters today.

Voters in either situation can ask for a provisional ballot. They will be given a provisional ballot from the polling place. After casting their votes, the ballot will be placed in a special envelope and signed by the voter. During the official canvass of votes, the election official will verify the voter's eligibility and will count the ballot if the voter was registered and eligible to vote.

"Undoubtedly, there will be situations where a citizen has legally and timely registered to vote, but whose name isn't on the roster when he or she arrives at their polling place," Shelley cautioned. "The provisional ballot was designed to restore the right to vote for precisely these registrants."

Acknowledging that the dramatic increase in last-minute registrations may result in some voter names not appearing on rosters, Secretary of State Shelley urged voters to go to the polls and cast provisional ballots. Even if the voter is in the wrong precinct in his or her county of residence, once determined to be a qualified voter the votes on those issues and candidates that would have appeared on the proper precinct ballot will be counted.

Provisional voters are not required to show any form of identification in order to cast a provisional ballot. Shelley clarified, "The only voters who may be asked to show photo or other acceptable identification are first-time voters in the county who registered to vote by mail delivery, pursuant to the Help America Vote Act."

Shelley continued, "These first-time mail registrants have the option of showing any number of listed identification documents, or choosing to cast a provisional ballot instead."

Acceptable forms of identification include a driver's license or identification card of any state, passport, employee identification card, identification card provided by a commercial establishment, credit or debit card, military or student identification card, health club or insurance plan identification card. Additional documents that may be used to establish proof of residency include documents that have the voter's name and address including utility bills, bank statements, government checks or other documents, lease or rental housing agreements, property tax statement, vehicle registration, sample ballot, voter notification card, public transportation authority senior citizen discount card, or identification document issued by government homeless shelters and other temporary or transitional facilities.

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A complete list of acceptable identification documents for first-time mail registrants and provisional voting rules under the Help America Vote Act can be accessed at http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/hava_faq/hava_id_prov_ball_req.pdf